



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# NEWS RELEASE

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## EPA to Hold Meeting with Allentown Residents on Reducing Risks from Ethylene Oxide (EtO) at B. Braun Facility

**PHILADELPHIA (Sept. 14, 2022)** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is committed to reducing health risks toxic air pollution and is working to update and strengthen Clean Air Act standards for commercial sterilizers to achieve that goal. As part of that process, EPA is reaching out to communities facing the highest risks from certain commercial sterilizer facilities; state, Territory, and local governments; other interested parties; and industry to share information and hear input on protecting health and reducing toxic emissions.

“Everyone is entitled to clean air to breathe and listening to communities is essential to providing that for all people regardless of race, economic status or where they live.” said Adam Ortiz EPA Regional Administrator for the Mid-Atlantic region. “Public engagement and citizen involvement are essential ingredients in the recipe for protection of human health.”

An upcoming meeting for Allentown will be held on:

- Tuesday, November 1, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Location

EPA will be sharing Ethylene Oxide (EtO) emissions and risk information impacting Allentown. The agency aims to improve public understanding of the risk; help states, Tribes, communities, and the industry reduce risk from EtO in the near-term; and hear input as the agency continues to develop regulations to reduce air pollution from commercial sterilizers.

Although important for sterilizing things, EtO is also known to cause cancer. When people breathe in EtO over the course of many years it can increase their risk of cancers of the blood and, in women, breast cancer.

EPA has recently completed an analysis that shows that EtO emissions from some commercial sterilizers in the U.S. contribute to elevated cancer risk for people living in nearby communities. Specifically, exposure over the course of a lifetime (24 hours a day for 70 years) to EtO at concentrations expected to be found near some commercial sterilizers can increase a person’s risk of developing cancer.

For more detailed information visit [ <https://www.epa.gov/eto> ] or you may contact us at [ [HYPERLINK "mailto:eto@epa.gov" \t "\\_blank" \]](mailto:eto@epa.gov) ].



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